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Referendum; Role of the Volksrat

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1. At a meeting of SED leaders [REDACTED] at party headquarters in Berlin, Kurt Lichtenstein, KPD editor from Düsseldorf, reported on a conference he had had with SNA officials. At a final banquet on 20 March, Colonel Tulpanov outlined the program for staging a German unity plebiscite substantially as described by Pieck [REDACTED]. Tulpanov said that, according to legal experts, the western occupying powers cannot forbid the circulation of the petition for placing the unity issue before the public. The constitutional committee of the Volksrat has prepared a draft of a law to be introduced in each Landtag by the KPD according to which the land would apply for incorporation into a democratic German republic.
2. Pieck pointed out to the SED leaders at the 22 March meeting that the line now taken by the CDU in regard to the Volksrat was an attempt to limit its powers. Thus, an editorial in Neue Zeit describes the Volksrat as a child of the bloc policy and says that its work will be conducted in the same spirit and by the same methods. Pieck said this is a base attempt to transfer the policy of unanimity from the Antifa Bloc to the Volksrat. The SED will not accept this idea but rather will insist on parliamentary procedure in the Volksrat and rule by the majority which is faithful to the SED. The Volksrat is a sovereign body, a parliament entitled to handle all normal problems of a national parliament such as constitutional questions, economic, and social problems.
3. Both Pieck and Walter Ulbricht emphasized that SED functionaries must rid themselves of their old Marxist inhibitions against nationalism. The old-line Communists who disagree with the SED nationalistic propaganda will have to submit to the will of the Central Secretariat.

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